



ICF KAISER ENGINEERS GROUP

ICF Kaiser Engineers, Inc.  
485C Route 1 South, Suite 200  
Iselin, NJ 08830  
908/726-3700 Fax 908/726-3701

Sent Via Fax

June 10, 1996

Mr. David Gilbert  
Lexica International  
209 Mt. Prospect Avenue  
Newark, NJ 07104

SUBJECT: TRANSLATION OF EPA FACT SHEET INTO PORTUGUESE AND SPANISH

Dear Mr. Gilbert:

I am forwarding a fact sheet from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Please translate the fact sheet into Portuguese and Spanish and provide me with both a hard copy and disk copy by noon on Monday, June 17, 1996. You may prepare the translations in either WordPerfect 5.1 or Microsoft Word 6.0.

Our deadline for getting the fact sheet out is tight; please let me know today if you will have any difficulty meeting our schedule.

Thank you for your assistance. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (908) 726-3729.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanne M. Wireman".

Joanne M. Wireman  
Community Relations Manager

Enclosure

838530001

**Spring 1996**

## **Sediment Sampling Confirms High Levels of Contamination in Passaic River**

### **What is it?**

Sediment in the Passaic River Study Area was analyzed to identify concentrations of chemical contaminants, to determine when the sediment was laid down, and to measure geotechnical (physical) characteristics of the sediment. The chemical concentration and dating information will be used to evaluate how contaminants are distributed and at what concentrations, and when individual chemicals may have entered the Passaic River Study Area. The geotechnical data will be used in conjunction with a sediment transport modeling effort currently underway to determine how sediments move through the Passaic River Study Area and to evaluate remedial cleanup alternatives.

The data can tell us the concentration, location, depth and extent of chemical contamination in the six mile reach and give us an understanding of the time of sediment deposition in relation to depth. Alone, this sediment characterization data cannot tell us who is responsible for dumping these contaminants into the river; effects these contaminants have on crabs, fish or humans; and whether or not contaminated sediments have moved up river or down into the Bay.

### **Why did EPA collect it?**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will use this information to understand the nature and extent of chemical contaminants in the lower Passaic River and to evaluate clean-up alternatives to reduce or eliminate any risks that exist due to the nature and concentration of these chemicals.

EPA's investigation of the Passaic River Study Area has three broad objectives. The first is to characterize the location and concentration of hazardous chemical compounds present in the sediments. The second is to understand how sediments are moving within the study area. The third objective is to identify any human and animal populations that may be at risk because of exposure to contaminated sediments or seafood in the lower Passaic River and to evaluate the potential impacts on those populations.

### **Who paid for it?**

Occidental Chemical Corporation, who is currently one of nine potentially responsible parties for the Passaic River Study Area, is paying for the investigatory work under an April 1994 agreement with EPA. OCC involvement stems from their ownership of the abandoned Diamond Alkali facility located at 80 and 120 Lister Avenue in Newark, New Jersey. The facility is contaminated with pesticides, dioxin (also known as 2,3,7,8-

tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin or TCDD) and other chemical compounds which may have been released into the Passaic River.

### **What does it mean?**

Because of the large number of sampling results--each sample (85 locations, 5 to 7 samples per location) was analyzed for 150+ different chemical compounds--it will be many months before we truly understand the chemistry of the sediments in the Passaic River Study Area.

EPA's preliminary review of the data indicates that: (1) dioxin concentrations were found in the Passaic River surficial sediments (upper 6 inches) in the part-per billion range and in deeper sediments (greater than 4 feet beneath the river bottom) next to the Diamond Alkali facility in the part-per-million range, making this sediment one of the most highly dioxin-contaminated in the nation; (2) mercury is present in surficial sediments throughout most of the Passaic River Study Area above levels which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has determined may cause effects in fish and other river creatures; and (3) other chemical compounds such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and DDT are also found in surficial sediments at levels above NOAA's *guidelines* at some locations.

The further characterization of the location and concentration of these and other chemical compounds, and most importantly what their presence means for clean-up of the Passaic River Study Area, will only come after the additional parts of the investigation are complete.

### **What can or should the public do?**

The State of New Jersey has a long-standing ban on the sale and consumption of striped bass, blue crab and other seafood in the Passaic River. Don't eat the fish or crabs from the Passaic south of Dundee Dam.

### **EPA Notifies Four Additional Companies of Potential Liability**

EPA recently notified four additional companies of their potential liability for contamination in the Passaic River Study Area. EPA investigations indicate that hazardous substances may have been released from facilities operated by: Benjamin Moore & Company, Alcan Aluminum Corporation, Ashland Chemical Company, and Monsanto Company. EPA will look to these companies to join with the other potentially responsible parties ("PRPs") in investigating chemical contamination in the river.

According to Superfund law, EPA notifies companies of their potential liability when it has determined there may be an actual or threatened release of hazardous materials

from a facility. Companies identified by EPA as PRPs are responsible for the cost of the investigation and cleanup, either by conducting or paying for the work.

Companies previously identified as PRPs are Occidental Chemical Corporation, Sherwin-Williams Company, Reilly Tar and Chemicals Corporation, Chris-Craft Industries, and E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.

### **Lister Avenue Remedial Design in Final EPA Review**

The final Remedial Design for the Diamond Alkali Superfund site interim action is under final review by EPA. The design plans specify installation of: (1) a cap to cover the site and minimize the infiltration of rainwater into the soil, which, in turn, will reduce the mobility of contaminants in the soil; (2) a flood wall to prevent the river from flooding the site; (3) a pump-and-treat system to capture groundwater and remove contaminants; and (4) a slurry wall (underground wall) to prevent contaminated groundwater from leaving the site while the groundwater is being pumped and treated.

### **Upcoming Activities**

**Passaic River Study Area:** The sediment transport modeling work is scheduled to be completed by late this year. EPA plans to do an interim evaluation early next year to see if any actions could be undertaken in the short term to mitigate environmental exposure to these contaminants. Sampling of crabs, worms and fish as well as other efforts to evaluate potential risks due to exposure to the contaminated sediments should begin this summer. Species to be examined include mummichog (a small, abundant forage fish), blue crab, and various game fish such as striped bass, American eel, and white perch.

**80/120 Lister Avenue Site:** Pre-construction activities for site cleanup are scheduled to begin in the summer of next year.

### **Visit Us on the World Wide Web**

Further data and information can be found on EPA Region 2's World Wide Web home page at:

[www.epa.gov/Region2/html/superfund/pass\\_ou2.htm](http://www.epa.gov/Region2/html/superfund/pass_ou2.htm).

Graphics of the Passaic River sampling design are available at:

[www.epa.gov/Region2/html/superfund/d-a\\_samp.htm](http://www.epa.gov/Region2/html/superfund/d-a_samp.htm).

# FAX COVER SHEET

**ICF KAISER**  
485-C Route 1 South  
Iselin, New Jersey 08830  
Telecopy Number: (908) 726-3701  
(908) 726-3702

**⇒ ICF KAISER**  
(908) 726-3700

TO: David Gilbert

MESSAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

TELECOPY NUMBER:

201-484-1383

FROM: Carrie Wieman

NUMBER OF PAGES FOR  
TRANSMISSION:  
(Including cover): 5

If there is a problem with this transmission, or all pages have not  
been received, please call (908) 726-3700

THANK YOU

DATE: 6/10/96

## TRANSMISSION REPORT

THIS DOCUMENT (REDUCED SAMPLE ABOVE)  
WAS SENT

**\*\* COUNT \*\***  
**# 5**

\*\*\* SEND \*\*\*

NO	REMOTE STATION I. D.	START TIME	DURATION	#PAGES	COMMENT
1	484 1383	6-10-96 9:45AM	3'31"	5	

TOTAL 0:03'31" 5

XEROX TELECOPIER 7020

838530005